

Kansas Accident Reporting Newsletter

DISTRIBUTION: APRIL

*** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORTING STAFF ***

NEW CODING MANUAL...

The 2012 version of the Motor Vehicle Accident Coding Manual is completed and published. Keep in mind, the forms did not change, therefore the coding is relatively the same. However, we enhanced many areas including adding diagrams based upon feedback from law enforcement personnel.

An electronic copy is posted at <http://www.ksdot.org/burtransplan/prodinfo/lawinfo.asp> and will be released in the next version of KLER. **Hard-copies can be ordered according to your agency's need using the ordering link.**

LEGALLY/ILLEGALLY PARKED CODING

Sometimes there is confusion concerning how to record legally or illegally parked vehicles involved in accidents. Use the following as a guide:

LEGALLY PARKED (X Units...X2, X3, etc)

- * No part of the vehicle is in the driving lanes (unless on-street parking allows such)
- * Transport vehicle parked in roadway unloading cargo
- * Emergency vehicle parked with emergency lights on (police, tow, fire, ambulance, etc)
- * Construction/utility vehicle parked with caution lights on and/or cones and signs
- * Note: An Injured occupant is PED Type 25 & recorded on 854 form.

ILLEGALLY PARKED (Normal Traffic Units...01, 02, etc)

- * A part or all of the vehicle is in the driving lanes (unless on-street parking allows such)
- * Examples: door open in driving lanes, cargo in driving lanes, car running in driving lanes, non-emergency vehicle providing assistance, attached trailer in driving lanes, etc.
- * Disabled vehicles in driving lanes are considered illegally parked and therefore in-transport.

Remember, vehicles stopped in traffic due to normal traffic flow are NOT considered "parked." Per federal guidelines, these vehicles are considered "in-transport" and are recorded as normal traffic units (01, 02, etc.). Be sure to record legally parked vehicles (X units) **last** on the 850B form.

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Contact Information

- ◆ **Accident Coding Help or data requests:**
785.296.0456 or accident-data@ksdot.org
- ◆ **"Wrecks"** - 785.296.5169 or rex@ksdot.org
- ◆ **Ordering Forms:**
 - * Accidents (KDOT forms):
<http://www.ksdot.org/burtransplan/prodinfo/lawinfo.asp> or call 785.296.7789
 - * KBI forms: 785.296.8200
 - * DC Forms: 785.296.3613
- ◆ **KLER Software:**
1-877-317-4597 or helpdesk@khp.ks.gov
- ◆ **KLER e-submission to KDOT:** 785-296-4851 TRSAAdmin@ksdot.org
- ◆ **Addresses** are listed in the [Motor Vehicle Accident Coding Manual](#)—Page 3



HOW TO CODE “OLD” HIGHWAY ROUTES

On the surface this would not seem to be complicated. However, it can become that way in a hurry if the route is not coded properly. Forgetting to add the “OLD” tag in the On Road Name field is the most common issue seen.

This can be alleviated in two ways:

- 1) Record the **signed** county or city road name if there is one.
- 2) If not, be sure to record the highway combined with the “OLD” designation...like: OLDU040, OLDU056, OLDK193, OLDU075BUS, etc.

FYI—There was a recent study done for I-70. In the process of reviewing thousands of reports, we discovered many OLDU040 road names recorded as U040. However, U040 at said locations could not be U040, because it rides on I070 and is not valid for that county or location. These accidents really happened on OLDU040. Needless to say, significant data cleanup was needed.

(page 15 of the manual)



ACCIDENT LOCATION CODING — PART 3

Continuing our discussion concerning Accident Location (AL) coding, we will address additional scenarios...

- * If a **pedestrian** is struck in an intersection crosswalk, is the AL coded as 12-intersection or 13-intersection related? **Answer: 13.** Crosswalks are not **inside** the box or circle of an intersection. They exist prior to and require a distance, unit of measure, and direction from the intersection. (page 22 in manual)
- * Similarly, accidents occurring among vehicles in traffic near but not inside intersection boundaries are coded as a 13, not 12. These include rear-end accidents where the 1st harmful event (FHE) is just outside the intersection boundaries. (page 22 in manual)
- * Anytime the **1st harmful event** occurs outside the driving lanes (even a short distance), the AL cannot be an **On Roadway** code (11-17). Examples: striking a sign or light post, median island, barrier wall, curb, fire hydrant, parking meter, and so on. (pages 27-28 in manual)
- * Accidents involving vehicles backing out of a driveway that strike another vehicle in the roadway are recorded as AL of **14-Parking Lot or Driveway Access**. These are not to be coded as an 11-Non-intersection. (pages 7, 22-23 in manual)

REMEMBER

The 1st Harmful Event and Unstabilized Situation are not necessarily the same thing...

“Harm” equals damage and/or injury

Many Unstabilized Situation beginnings do not involve harm: loss of control, disregarding signs, failure to yield, etc.



MANAGER MUSINGS

In speaking with agencies around the state, I hear comments like, “the coding on the 2009 forms is harder and slower than before.” This is in response normally heard when KDOT is working through coding issues on reports sent back for correction concerning **Accident Location** issues.

What is interesting is that KDOT did not change the rules for Accident Location coding in conjunction with the 2009 forms. These coding rules have been the same since 1995 (or earlier). The difference is that KDOT previously fixed the mistakes and did not send the reports back to law enforcement agencies for these errors. Now that we are sending reports back, officers are confused as to why.

Unfortunately, our lack of feedback communicated to you the coding was good, which propagated the problem. Please ensure trainers are current with content from the latest Coding Manual. Remember, you can contact us with questions and concerns at any time. (See contact information on page 1)

Thank you for your work and attention to detail. It is appreciated!

“Wrecks”

(See pages 22-28 of the manual)



“Wrecks”

Rex McCommon

Kansas

Motor Vehicle

Accident Data Manager

MORE ON ROAD NAME CODING HELP...

- * If an accident occurs on an “**access road**” to a parking lot, what is the On Road Name if the road is not named? Answer: **Road Name:** Parking Lot **Road Type:** TRWY (Please do not name the road “Access”)

- It is very important to add a **Block Number** and other descriptive information in the **Special Data** field and **Narrative** for these locations. See page 15 of the manual.

- We recently reviewed a number accidents in one county where the only description given was “Access Rd” and **AT** “S Black Bob Rd.” **Question:** Where is this access road in this county? The absence of proper detail renders the recorded location useless.

- * Recording a **frontage road** in a road name field can be nebulous as well. There are unnamed frontage roads that parallel main roadways. The **On Road Name** can be **Frontage** with the **Road Type** of **RD**. However, further description in the **Special Data** field and **Narrative** along with the **Block Number** are needed. If the frontage road has a signed road name, use it. Be sure to differentiate between the main road and the frontage road.

Example: **E Kellogg Ave** and **E Kellogg DR S**

